

AMERICAN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

November 13, 1978

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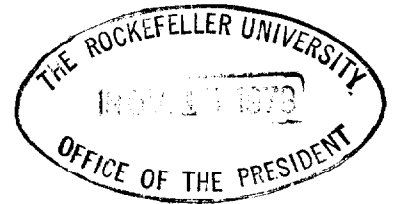
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Dr Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Ave. at 66th
New York, NY, 10021



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Dear Dr Lederberg:

I just read in THE NEW YORKER that you have been appointed President of Rockefeller University and cannot but rejoice with the editor of the magazine that a great scholar is holding the kind of position that is with increasing frequency offered to "administrators," often innocent and wary of what education might be conceived of being.

My delight prompts ^{me} to mention to you something which, for some time, has been very much on my mind and to which you might possibly be sympathetic. I am referring to the "unholy" and unhealthy division between science and the humanities that modern educators have permitted to develop and that, it seems to me, is quite contrary to the quest for structures that all modern scholars share, whether they are in the natural, the social, or the humanistic sciences. Some scientists such as Gunther S. Stent seem to have been equally concerned about such matters, and I wonder whether you might consider it worth your while and that of your University to discuss such problems with a possible view of establishing courses that cut across the traditional and quite artificial boundaries without losing themselves in easy generalities.

I am enclosing an off-print of the presidential address I delivered last December at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association of America because it contains some of my thinking along such lines.

It would be a pleasure to hear from you at your convenience.

Since I live in New York, I am enclosing my private address:

E. Kern, 1025 5th Ave, Apt.5-F south, New York 10028,
where I can be reached most readily, since I am commuting this semester to Brandeis University, spending Thursdays and Fridays there.

Respectfully yours,

Edith Kern